

PATENT

Serial No. 10/023,167

Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of September 9, 2005

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 9 as follows:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A method for visualizing a limited part
2 of a 3D medical image-point-related data set, said method being
3 based on selectively suppressing a geometrically selected part of
4 the data set and rendering an image based on any non-suppressed
5 part of the data set,

6 said method being characterized in that said selected part
7 comprises a first selection containing all points associated to a
8 nearer region with respect to a first clipping plane and moreover
9 all points associated to a farther region with respect to a second
10 clipping plane, respectively, thereby making the rendered image
11 being based on an intermediate region between said first clipping
12 plane and said second clipping plane, wherein said first clipping
13 plane is moved to form said second clipping plane.

1 2. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said
2 first clipping plane and said second clipping plane are
3 substantially parallel planes.

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1 3.(Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said
2 first and second clipping planes are substantially parallel to an
3 imaging plane.

1 4.(Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said
2 intermediate region is dimensioned to encompass a region of imaging
3 interest.

1 5.(Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, and allowing
2 user manipulation for said intermediate region as being based on
3 either one of a differential shifting, a parallel shifting, or a
4 rotation of said first and second clipping planes.

1 6.(Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said
2 first clipping plane and said second clipping plane constitute a
3 diverging angle that is less than 60°, and preferable, less than
4 25°.

1 7.(Original) A method for visualizing each of a first limited
2 part and a second limited part of a 3D medical image-point-related

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3 data set each respectively as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said
4 first and second limited parts are substantially coinciding but
5 associated to respective stereoscopic lines of view, and said
6 method furthermore providing for viewing a three-dimensional stereo
7 image of said intermediate region through combined viewing of said
8 first and second limited parts.

1 8. (Original) A method for visualizing a limited part of a 3D
2 medical image-point-related data set generated through applying a
3 tomosynthesis procedure, with respect to a selected part of the
4 data set and rendering an image based on any non-suppressed part of
5 the data set,

6 said method being characterized by combining a first imaging
7 plane associated to a first stereoscopic line of view and a second
8 imaging plane associated to a second stereoscopic line of view to a
9 first stereoscopic plane couple, and to differentially shift said
10 stereoscopic plane couple to other positions whilst maintaining the
11 orientations of their associated pseudo-planes, and superposing the
12 point informations pertaining to the various stereo couples to
13 produce a three-dimensional stereo image of a region covered by
14 such shifted stereo couples.

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1 9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for visualizing a limited
2 part of a 3D medical image-point-related data set, said apparatus
3 comprising:

4 pickup means for deriving from a tissued object various two-
5 dimensional information sets and being coupled to data processing
6 means for therefrom generating a three-dimensional data set for
7 displaying on a display facility coupled therewith,

8 selection means associated with said data processing means for
9 selectively suppressing a geometrically selected part of the data
10 set for subsequent rendering on said display facility of an image
11 based on any non-suppressed part of the data set,

12 said apparatus being characterized in that said selection
13 means are arranged for implementing a first selection containing
14 all points associated to a nearer region with respect to a first
15 clipping plane and moreover all points associated to a farther
16 region with respect to a second clipping plane, respectively,
17 thereby making the rendered image being based on an intermediate
18 region between said first clipping plane and said second clipping
19 plane, wherein said first clipping plane is moved to form said
20 second clipping plane.

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1 10.(Original) An apparatus arranged for visualizing each of a
2 first limited part and a second limited part of a 3D medical image-
3 point-related data set each respectively as claimed in Claim 9,
4 wherein said first and second limited parts are substantially
5 coinciding but associated to respective stereoscopic lines of view,
6 and said apparatus being furthermore arranged for providing the
7 viewing a three-dimensional stereo image of said intermediate
8 region through combined viewing of said first and second limited
9 parts.

1 11.(Original) An apparatus for visualizing a limited part of
2 a 3D medical image-point-related data set, said apparatus
3 comprising a tomosynthesis pickup and processing means, with
4 respect to a selected part of the data set and rendering an image
5 based on any non-suppressed part of the data set,
6 said method being characterized by combining a first
7 imaging plane associated to a first stereoscopic line of view and a
8 second imaging plane associated to a second stereoscopic line of
9 view to a first stereoscopic plane couple, and to differentially

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10 shift said stereoscopic plane couple to other positions whilst
11 maintaining the directions of their associated pseudo-planes, and
12 superposing the point informations pertaining to the various stereo
13 couples to produce a three-dimensional stereo image of a region
14 covered by such shifted stereo couples.